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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03315 111058Z
12
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 096574
Z 110958Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4620

S E C R E T LUSAKA 3315

NODIS

DEPT PASS LONDON SECRETARY AND WISNER

STATE FOR SCHAUFELE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR RH ZA
SUBJ: POSSIBLE FRONTLINE MEETING

1. IF THERE IS A FRONTLINE MEETING, AS APPEARS LIKELY, THE MAIN SUBJECT WILL BE THE TIMING AND FORM OF THE BRITISH PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT ONVOLVEMENT IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. AS I ASSUME YOU ARE AWARE, KAUNDA SENT A SECOND LETTER TO CALLAGHAN DEC 9 WHICH WAS VERY UPBEAT. HE EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT CROSLAND'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO PLAY A DIRECT ROLE IN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, URGED THAT IT TAKE THE FORM OF A GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THAT THE PROPOSAL BE LAID BEFORE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. KAUNDA HOPES TO AVOID AN ADJOURNMENT BUT IF SUCH BECOMES INEVITABLE, HE BELIEVES THERE SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC PLAN UNDER DISCUSSION WHICH CAN SERVE AS THE FOCUS FOR RECONVENING THE CONFERENCE.

2. THE ZAMBIANS SEE THE BRITISH PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECT ROLE AS PROVIDING A WAY OUT OF THE IMPASSE OVER THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND PUBLIC ORDER. IF THE BRITISH ACCEPT THE ROLE OF GOVERNOR GENERAL, THEN HE WOULD SUBSTITUTE FOR
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THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND HAVE AUTHORITY OVER DEFENSE

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AND PUBLIC ORDER. THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE A MAIN
TOPIC OF DISCUSSION AT THEFRONTLINE MEETING.

3. BECAUSE KAUNDA PUTS SUCH GREAT STORE ON THE BRITISH
WILLINGNESS TO PLAY AN INCREASED ROLE, HE IS CONCENTRATING
ON THIS AS THE WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE RATHER
THAN ON PRESSING THE NATIONALISTS TO TAKE A MORE FORTH-
COMING POSITION TOWARDS NEGOTIATING PROVISIONS OF THE
SEPT 24 SMITH STATEMENT. WHILE I BELIEVE KAUNDA WAS
ANNOYED AT THE SECRETARY'S LETTER, IT IS NOT MY
IMPRESSION THAT HIS CONCERN OVER THE LETTER IS AS
PROFOUND AS CHONA IS INCLINED TO MAKE OUT. LOW

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 DEC 1976
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